

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 6a
Columbia River Compact
July 17, 2013

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Indian commercial

Stock status and management guidelines for 2013 summer season fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 11, 2013).

Stock Status

- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) conferred but did not formally meet on July 15 to review salmon returns. TAC updated the in-season run size forecasts to 65,000 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook and 179,000 sockeye to the Columbia River. Both of these estimates are less than pre-season, but improved over the estimates TAC provided last week. Based on the last two day's sockeye counts at Bonneville, it now appears the sockeye run will likely exceed the pre-season forecast by some amount.
- Based on updated in-season run size estimates and management agreements, a total of 17,538 adult summer Chinook and 12,530 sockeye are available for treaty Indian fisheries.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- The tribal summer season gillnet fishery has been ongoing since June 16. Weekly fishing periods have been ranged from 2 ½ to 3 ½ days per period. All openers have had a 7-inch minimum mesh restriction. The fifth weekly period is currently open and scheduled to close 6:00 p.m. Thursday July 18.
- Platform hook & line (PH&L) fisheries are ongoing 7-days per week above and below Bonneville Dam consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs. An additional 350 Chinook and 500 sockeye are reserved for PH&L harvest after the gillnet fisheries conclude. Harvest from PH&L is included the gillnet totals.
- Aerial net counts have been conducted once a week since June 17. The number of nets has been decreasing since the peak count of 373 nets observed during the second weekly period (Jun 24-27).
- Harvest has been close to or slightly less than expectations. Typical for the summer season, catch (and effort) declines as the season progresses. Effort declined to 241 nets counted today.
- Based on the in-season run sizes and current catch estimates, a balance of 4,900 Chinook and 3,300 sockeye will remain available for treaty Indian harvest after this weeks fishery.

Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season			352	
Jun 17-21	367	4,819	2,109	107
Jun 24-27	373	2,352	2,119	164
July 1-3	326	1,884	1,814	293
July 8-11	326	1,829	1,332	628
July 15-18 projection	241	1,343	998	1,000
Subtotal 1		12,227	8,724	2,192
Platforms Through July		350	500	400
Subtotal 2		12,577	9,224	2,592
Allowed at updated run size		17,538	12,530	
Remaining Available prior to next week		4,961	3,306	
July 22-25 projection	250	1,800	1,600	1,600
Remaining Available after next week		3,161	1,706	

- The four Columbia River Treaty tribes have decided that a 3.5 day gillnet fishery is appropriate for next week and have adopted the following regulation:

2013 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - recommendation		
Season	6 AM Monday July 22 to 6 PM Thursday July 25, 2013 (3.5 days)	
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and Dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear are in place, except no Spring Creek.	
Gear:	Gill nets. There will be no minimum mesh size requirement.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period	

concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.

Additional: 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.

- Catch estimates for next week's combined gillnet and platform fisheries total 1,800 Chinook and 1,600 sockeye along with 1,600 steelhead.
- After the conclusion of next week's commercial gillnet fishery, the tribes have decided to utilize some of the remaining available summer Chinook and sockeye in permit gillnet fisheries to meet some ceremonial and subsistence needs that were not fully met in the spring season. Therefore the tribes will not allow fish caught after 6:00 PM on Saturday July 27 to be sold. Based on current projections there will be over 3,000 Chinook and 1,700 sockeye that could be used in C&S permit fisheries although they do not expect to harvest that many. The tribes will provide copies of permits issued to the states.

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Summer Platform and Hook and Line Fishery - recommendation</i>
Fish harvested after 6:00 PM on Saturday July 27 in the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery and in fisheries that occur downstream of Bonneville Dam consistent with MOU's and MOA's with the states may not be sold commercially but may be retained for subsistence purposes.

- The tribes expect to conclude permit fishing either on August 3 or on August 10 and will allow the sale of fish caught in platform and hook and line fishing on the Monday following the end of permit fishing. The tribes will request a Compact hearing either during the week of July 29 or the week of August 5 to address this. At this time the tribes do not expect to bring any commercial fishery proposals to the July 25 Compact.
- Summer season catch is expected to remain within ESA and harvest allocation limits given the current run size estimates.
- The tribes will continue to monitor and report harvest from treaty fisheries. The tribes will count Chinook caught after August 1 as fall Chinook, but any sockeye caught in August count as part of the overall sockeye harvest limit.